(b) As on 1.4.2006, there were 11834 route kms of Metre Gauge lines and 2924 route kms of Narrow Gauge lines. There is only one Narrow Gauge line on East Coast Railway from Naupada to Gunupur with 90.20 route kms.

(c) The work of Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion is likely to be completed during 2008-09.

Explosions in Delhi-Attari Express

*179. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two explosions on the Delhi-Attari Express that caused a fire killed at least 66 passengers and injured number of passengers on 19th February, 2007;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has decided to step up security on train and its departure point would be shifted to another location;

(c) whether security measures similar to those at airports have been introduced for the train and the security escort would monitor the passengers on the train and baggage identification would be carried out as at airports and sniffer dogs would also be deployed; and

(d) if so, what are the other measures being considered?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. In the incident of fire due to explosions in two coaches of Train No. 4001 Up Delhi-Attari Express while running in Diwana - Panipat section over Delhi Division of Northern Railway in the night of 18.02.2007, 68 (49 Identified and 19 Unidentified) passengers including 03 staff of Railway Protection Force (who were escorting the train) died. 12 passengers sustained injuries (07 Grievous and 05 Simple).

(b) to (d) There is no proposal at present for shifting of departure point of train no. 4001/4002 Delhi - Attari Express to another station. The security

on train No. 4001 Up Delhi - Attari Express has been beefed up and following measures are being taken:

The rake of the above train will be checked before drawing the same to the platforms and escorted from yards to the platforms.

Only Sleeper Class Reserved coaches which are connected by vestibules are now provided.

Passengers will be permitted to travel with valid Passport, Visa and Railway ticket for Pakistan only.

Passengers will be allowed to carry two pieces of luggage weighing miximum 35 kgs with them. Extra luggage, if any, can be booked in the luggage van after security check.

02 Railway Protection Force escorting staff per coach will be provided.

Frisking of all passengers and manual checking of their luggage has been introduced.

Sniffer dogs are being deployed for checking of empty rakes of the above trains at platforms from where the trains start.

Installation of Close Circuit Televisions.

Provision of modern security gadgets like Hand held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors etc. to strenthen access control at entry/exit points.

Stickers are being pasted on the luggage of the passengers mentioning coach and berth number after security.

However, because of the open-design of the railway station with handling of thousands of passengers, it is not possible to provide air-port like security.

Budget allocation for sanctioned projects

*180. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis under which allocation of budget is given for the sanctioned projects;